MUTINY

A PAPER OF ANARCHISTIC IDEAS & ACTIONS
#38 MAY 2009

reports from may day

desecrating lake cowal

INSIDE
Sydney Anarchist Film Festival programme

telemarketing: corporate scams

swine flu hysteria

If the government doesn't stop the war,
We will stop the government.

Mutiny is an anarchist collective based in Sydney. We started this zine to explore different avenues of disobedience & resistance, & to encourage people to write about their ideas, actions & experiences.

Mutiny began as an anti-war collective. We're currently exploring ways to resist gentrification, in particular the 'redevelopment' proposed in the Redfern Waterloo Authority. We're keen to work with other people opposed to this redevelopment & the displacement, racism, rent hikes & ugliness it involves. We meet regularly: please contact us on the address below:

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Back issues at www.jura.org.au/mutiny
Thanks as always to Comrade Secretary & Juraboy

Editors: Goldielocks, Mambutu, Max Solidarity, SourDough, Graf Cat, Princess Mob, Dumpstered Twin

A big shout out for all the birthday wishes & presents Mutiny Zine received.

Thank-you so much for consistently supporting the zine for the last three years - we couldn't have done it without your help (so keep your submissions coming). We hope to bring you many more.

◀ *Reproduction of Issue 37's cover... in cake form. Big respect to Mambutu and Exploded Cake.*

Front cover from a Mayday Washington DC protest poster, reprinted in Bragg Brief. Circa 1971.

(The mutiny zine collective does not necessarily agree with all the opinions of contributors. Contributors do not necessarily agree with all the opinions of the mutiny collective. The mutiny collective doesn't agree with all the opinions of the mutiny collective.)

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BRIEF NEWS

Belgium

On May 12 Belgian & French Steelworkers, angry about reduced hours & job insecurity, attempted to crash the Annual ArcelorMittal shareholders meeting in Luxembourg. About 2,000 workers gathered at the headquarters of the world's largest steelmaker. Throwing firecrackers, cobblestones & iron bars, a group tried to break through the front door but were driven off by riot police officers firing rubber bullets & tear gas.

The workers damaged the ornate front doors of the company headquarters, but the meeting was not interrupted. It was the first violent demonstration in Luxembourg since Arcelor steelworkers rioted in 2003.

Bangladesh

On May 10 at the Rupashi Sweater factory in Narayanganj (a river port town in central Bangladesh & centre of jute & textiles industries) bosses were attacked by a group of workers demanding their unpaid wages. When they turned up for work they found themselves locked out of the factory. The workers then marched to other factories - shouting slogans for higher wages - & brought out thousands of other workers. 15,000 workers came out on to the streets & around 14 factories were attacked & vandalised. Two main inter-city highways were blocked for four hours, becoming a battleground between police & paramilitary forces & enraged workers.

Garment workers used similar tactics at Savar (also in central Bangladesh, a center of textiles & agriculture) over unpaid wages. These incidents are entirely typical of the increasing unrest in the garment industry. Real wages have declined as inflation rises; indicating how precarious & malnourished much of the workforce is, workers are now being given temporary food rations as an alternative to permanent wage increases.

In late April thousands of auto rickshaw drivers in the south-eastern port city of Chittagong began a wildcat strike to press their demands for a higher meter rate, against police harassment, & for more protection from theft & violence. On April 27 hundreds of drivers fought police, blocked roads with processions, attacked 50 vehicles, including police vans & bikes, & barricaded a busy traffic intersection. They also clashed with the rickshaw vehicle renting companies (who sometimes rip off drivers by refusing to return vehicle hire deposits or overcharging for them) & ransacked the offices of a meter installation company.

30 people have been arrested, including six union leaders, who had expressed workers' grievances while denying any responsibility for the strike, & sometimes trying to calm protests.

Edited from libcom.org

Greece

Prisoners, both condemned & pending trial, held in the Police HQs of Salonica went on hunger strike on May 7 in protest for the conditions in their cells. According to the inmates living conditions in the police-run institution are terrible, with a total disregard for regulations. The premises lack basic hygienic facilities & standards & prisoners have no possibility to exercise or walk in the fresh air in a yard.

The hunger strike comes as the first since the deluge of prison action last (northern hemisphere) Autumn, when all prisons across the country went on an open-end hunger strike that forced the government to promise the release of more than half the prison population of the country by the end of April. The promises have not materialised, & it is unlikely that the current government has any intention to see them through.

Mexico

On May 7 thousands of police were sent in to remove Oaxacan civilians who had been blockading the Trinidad silver mine. The Canadian-owned mine had been occupied since March 16 by people concerned about environmental contamination & dwindling water resources. Eye-witnesses estimate that there were about 150 people from the community at the mine when police were sent in.

A call issued by Comité de Defensa de Los Derechos del Pueblo (CODEP) describes how "twenty-five hundred members of the federal police, AFI, judicial police, & the bomb corps entered the mine with a wealth of weapons: using tear gas, shots from various types of firearms, police dogs, savagely beating the people, & searching the homes of the people who were peacefully guarding access to the mine."

G20 trial, Melbourne

A court date has finally been confirmed for the three people still facing charges relating to the G20 protests in Melbourne in November 2006.

The first trial, of a woman charged with riot for participating in a street demonstration, begins on June 30 at Melbourne Magistrates Court. Two Sydney men who face charges of aggravated burglary are due to start on July 13.

These charges - which carry a maximum 5-year prison sentence - were issued as a result of occupations at the offices of Defense Force Recruiting & Tenix, a war-profiteer. When this trial is over one of the defendants faces a second trial for allegedly assaulting police during the street demonstration.

One man, Akin Sari, remains in prison as a result of his G20 charges, He's serving a 2 years & 4 month sentence. Write to him

c/-Corrections Victoria PO Box 123, Melbourne 3001 Australia

The G20 defense campaign continues to need funds for legal & travel costs. Look out for (or organise!) a fundraiser in a town near you, or make donations to:

Melbourne University Credit Union
Account name: G20 Arrestee Solidarity Network
BSB 803-143 A/C number: 13291 (all transfers)
cuscau2sxxx (if transferring from overseas)

May Day

Chile

About 10,000 Chileans marched in Santiago in a protest organised by the Unified Workers Confederation, the country's largest labour confederation

Columbia

In Colombia, unions and retirees' organisations mobilised thousands of workers with slogans against unemployment, President Alvaro Uribe's bid for re-election and the ongoing violence against unionists. Marchers also called for a negotiated settlement to the armed conflict with leftist rebels such as the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC).

Czech Republic

The Czech Anarchist Federation organised a meeting at the Střelecký river island in Prague, where anarchists have celebrated May Day since 1890. The May Day Festival afterwards featured speeches and bands including Propagandhi from Canada. Almost 8000 people visited the festival, more than twice as many as last year.

Ecuador

Thousands of workers marched in Ecuador's main cities carrying signs with slogans such as "Let the gringos pay for the capitalist crisis," and "Reject the government's labor policy".

Germany

Unions estimated that 484 000 people took part in 400 protests across the country. Riots in Berlin began on Thursday night where cars and rubbish containers were set alight. On May Day morning 700 anarchists blocked a railway station in an attempt to sabotage a neo-Nazi march.

Greece

Protest marches took to the streets of all major Greek cities on Mayday 2009. In Athens the independent march of anarchists, anarcho-syndicalists and autonomous unions attracted over a thousand protesters in defiance of anti-anarchist measures. The "anarchist May Day" protest marched through downtown immigrant neighbourhoods that have been recently vilified by the government and the media.

Guadaloupe

20 000 people celebrated the 44-day general strike that won

an increase in the minimum wage and price reductions for basic necessities earlier in the year. The demonstrators marched to Petit-Canal, the burial site of unionist Jacques Bino, who was killed on Feb 17 in a night of violence during the generally peaceful strike.

Haiti
In Port-au-Prince, Riot police used tear gas to disperse a march of several hundred students, teachers, unionist and others demanding the increase to minium wage.

Honduras
Thousands of workers marched in 11 cities in Honduras with slogans against the US-sponsored Dominican Republic-Central America Free Trade Agreement (CAFTA).

Iraq
About 1 000 people attended a march in Baghdad organised by the Iraqi Communist Party, the Iraqi Federation of Trade Unions and other groups.

Mexico
More than 30 000 Mexicans marched despite the suspension of May Day activities in Mexico City due to fears of swine flu. In Puebla, 25 000 people from 15 unions and peasant and activist groups participated in a march to the city's main plaza. "Face masks aren't enough to silence the conscience of the people" and "More harmful than the influenza—the government without shame" were among the chants.

Puerto Rico
In San Juan, the Broad Front of Solidarity and Struggle, a coalition of 22 unions, held a one-day general strike and a march to protest what unionists said was a plan by Governor Luis Fortuño to respond to the economic crisis by laying off 30 000-60 000 public employees and by "the privatisation of the country's essential public services". 30 000 people participated.

Russia
Mass arrests were made in St. Petersburg earlier on the day as people gathered in the centre of the city to take part in demonstrations. A police spokesman said they had received inside information that anarchists were preparing an "active action" (i.e. violent attack) against ultranationalists. He said 100 anarchists and 20 nationalists were detained, adding that some of the detained nationalists had "self-defense" weapons in their possession. Anarchists denied any such attack was planned, stating that they were organising a street party, in solidarity with Swedish torrent website Pirate Bay.

A reported thirty anarchists managed to escape when the police bus they were in got lost, and the police officers accompanying it were busy asking passers-by for directions.

Sweden
In Stockholm more than 3500 people marched with the Central Organisation of the Workers of Sweden, an anarcho-syndicalist trade union federation, and the Swedish Anarcho-syndicalist Youth Federation under a banner proclaiming that "we will not pay for your crisis!"

Also the Syndicalist Registry, which has successfully organised mostly immigrants without papers, has won a long standing dispute with the posh Josefine restaurant in central Stockholm. Josefine's was due to re-open on May1, yet the threat of a blockade of more than a thousand syndicalists and sympathisers obviously made the owner change his mind and promise back pay and proper contracts.

Turkey
In Istanbul, officers used teargas and water cannon to prevent protesters entering Taksim Square. Riot police mounted three charges against protesters who had joined organised labour movement's march.

USA
Tens of thousands marched for immigrant and workers' rights, the largest being over 20 000 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. They were calling for legalisation of the undocumented and an end to raids and deportations. Organisers credit the turnout to the hopes people have for Obama to pass immigration reform, the fear of consequences for missing a day of work in difficult economic times, concerns about swine flu and a general anti-immigrant climate with record numbers of raids and deportations.

United Kingdom
In Brighton a demonstration was held against the EDO/ MBM bomb component factory. It continued through town and paid visits to local branches of multi-national corporations, including McDonalds, RBS, HSBC and Lloyds which invest in ITT, the owners of EDO.

May Day Statement

by the Melbourne Anarchist Communist Group

In the shadow of the crisis

Today, on May Day, we dedicate ourselves to this revolution, and the establishment of libertarian communism, a State-less society where each contributes according to their ability and receives according to their need.

Chicago

May Day is International Workers Day. It began in the U.S. With protests over the framing and execution of Anarchist union organisers for the death of police killed by a bomb which exploded at a workers' gathering in Chicago. Since then, workers around the world have used it to campaign around the issues of the day, celebrate working class solidarity and dedicate themselves to the struggle for a better world.

Financial Crisis

Capitalism has fallen into a massive crisis. Losses from poor quality housing loans in the U.S. have led to the exposure of reckless and sometimes fraudulent financial practices. Banks and insurance companies in the U.S. have fallen. Entire national economies of second-ranking countries like Iceland, Hungary and Ireland have imploded. Despite massive financial bail-outs, the system remains shaky and further collapses cannot be ruled out. The financial shock has knocked the world into the worst recession since World War II, with Asian and African countries untouched by the financial crisis being drawn in by collapsing export markets. Capitalist predictions of recovery are more statements of hope than conviction.

Australia

Australia has also joined its trading partners in recession. Banks, dependent on overseas markets for funds, have cut back on credit. Volumes and prices of mineral exports have dropped substantially. The stock market has fallen savagely. The fallout from all this is serious and growing. Thousands of small investors, and a few large ones, have been ruined by corporate collapses. Millions of workers have found their retirement savings disappearing as superannuation funds have made large losses on the stock market. And, like a spectre the capitalists thought banished into the past, mass unemployment has returned. Jobs are being destroyed at a frightening rate and employers are also beginning to go on the offensive over wages and working conditions.

Workers of the World, Unite!

In the face of this gathering catastrophe, the relevance of May Day is thus once more underlined. Workers around the world are finding the bosses of their country have proven themselves their enemies, while the allies they need are amongst the workers of other countries. Capitalism, as well as being unjust, is inherently crisis-prone. Only a vast revolution of the working class, across the world, can throw it into the dustbin of history. Today, on May Day, we dedicate ourselves to this revolution, and the establishment of libertarian communism, a State-less society where each contributes according to their ability and receives according to their need.

WORKERS OF THE WORLD, UNITE!

Contact MACG on:
macg1984 at yahoo dot com dot au
PO Box 2120 Lygon St North

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www.jura.org.au
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Opening Night Friday June 5

An evening of local short films and fun

Saturday June 6

12pm	Living Utopia	Black Rose
12pm	Manufacturing Consent	Jura Books
3pm	Viva Zapata	Black Rose
3pm	Angry Brigade Documentary	Jura Books
6pm	Panther	Black Rose
6pm	Born In Flames	Jura Books

Sunday June 7

12pm	This Revolution	Black Rose
12pm	Paris is Burning	Jura Books
3pm	Land and Freedom	Black Rose
3pm	Libertarias	Jura Books
6pm	The Weather Underground	Black Rose
6pm	Free voice of Labour	Jura Books

Closing Night Monday June 8

6pm	Lucio Anarquista	Jura Books

LAKE COWAL

DAMIEN OUTLAW

Lake Cowal forms part of a large ephemeral inland wetland system in the Lachlan Catchment and is the largest, natural, inland lake in NSW. Lake Cowal is a sacred site for the Wiradjuri Nation. It is known as the sacred Heartland of the Wiradjuri Nation, and well known for its abundance of artefacts, strong history of initiations and cultural importance.

Lake Cowal is located in Central Western NSW, 45km North-West of West Wyalong, approx 600km West of Sydney. The lake is approximately 14 km long and 8 km wide with an average depth of around 2m. It is said to be inundated seven years out of ten. Significant concentrations of wildlife and waterbirds make the lake their home. Lake Cowal is listed on the Register of the National Estate for its biodiversity and the number of species that inhabit the lake.

GATHERING

Ongoing campaigning for the protection of Lake Cowal has been going since 1998 with the campaign taking off in 2002 after an embassy was set up on site. Continued campaigning has included yearly convergences, direct action, awareness and fundraising events as well as two visits to Barrick Gold's AGM in Toronto, in solidarity with Tanzania, Porgera PNG, Chile and the Philippines.

Sixty people from all over the east coast and as far as Adelaide, converged at Lake Cowal over the Easter Weekend, from Friday 10th to Sunday 12th April 2009, to fight for the protection of the lake and surrounding lands from gold mining and cyanide leaching. The convergence also wanted to speak out about indigenous rights to ceremony, to challenge 'consent to destroy' permissions, to address water issues, the mine expansion, native title and many other issues.

The brave sleepy protesters staged an early morning action, a walk-on to the mine site stopping work for hours and halted a shift change at one of the gates. There were 28 people arrested on the Easter Sunday and charged with offences relating to the action involving trespass.

BARRICK

Barrick Gold Corporation, based in Canada, is the world's largest gold mining company. Its Lake Cowal mine has been in full operation in this sacred and environmentally significant place since 2006.

According to Neville "Chappy" Williams, the Wiradjuri Traditional Owner: "Barrick is desecrating our sacred site and Dreaming Place and denying us access to our traditional lands. The company has moved or destroyed more than 10 000 artefacts including marked trees; damaging the integrity of the area forever.

"What we are doing is our ancient cultural duty to protect our sacred Country for the generations to come. We are also raising awareness of the dangers of cyanide leach gold mining and the mine's excessive use of precious water in the middle of the worst drought on record. The fullest dams, in the very parched countryside between Condobolin and the mine, are the toxic tailings ponds west of the open-cut pit – which extends into the lakebed."

In 2008 Barrick submitted an Environmental Assessment along with a proposal to modify and expand the Lake Cowal gold mine. The proposed Lake Cowal gold mine expansion or "E42 Modification", would involve the expansion of the following:

- Life of the mine from 13 years to 24 years
- Gold production from a total of 2.7 million ounces to 3.5 million ounces of gold
- Tailings produced from mining from 76 million tonnes to 129 million tonnes
- Total waste rock to be removed from the open pit from 128 million tonnes to 184 million tonnes
- Total surface area of the open pit, from 70 hectares to 130 hectares, from 1km long to 1.25 km long, from 850m wide to 1.35km wide, from 325m deep to 440m deep

Uncle Neville Chappy Williams, a Traditional Owner of Lake Cowal and dedicated opponent to the Gold Mine at Lake Cowal, has again challenged the Government's involvement with Barrick's Lake Cowal Gold Mine; this time through the NSW Land and Environment Court.

In February this year victory against Barrick in Australia occurred, when a judge ruled in favour of Wiradjuri Traditional Owner, Neville "Chappy" Williams. The NSW Land and Environment Court granted an injunction that now restrains the NSW Minister for Planning from making a determination on the proposed E42 modification, effectively restraining the proposed expansion of Barrick Gold's mine in Lake Cowal.

Current International campaigns involving Barrick Gold include:
Australia: Lake Cowal, NSW and Super-pit, Kalgoorlie, WA.
United States: Cortez Mine, Nevada. Expansion into sacred lands.
New Mexico: Communities battle subsidiary Homestake's legacy of uranium contamination.
Alaska: Donlin Creek gold project. $87 million exploration and development program.
Tanzania: Bulyanhulu and North Mara mines.
Chile: Pascua Lama/Valedero Project.
Argentina: Mount Famatina and Pascua Lama/Valedero Project.
Papua New Guinea: illegal dumping of toxic mine tailings into rivers.
Peru: Protesters die in confrontations with police during mining strikes in the Ancash region.
Canada: Eskey Creek, Northern British Columbia and the Helmo Joint venture, North shore of Lake Superior, Ontario.
Philippines: Placer Dome mine (1969-1996), lawsuit against Barrick Gold Corp. Initiated by provincial authorities of Marinduque for causing immense damage to the island and it's people.
Dominican Republic: Barrick Gold Corp. will reopen the Pueblo Viejo mine.
Russia: reports surface of mine workers being trapped in underground mine fires.

The fight for the protection of Lake Cowal continues stronger than ever.
A travelling exhibition of Lake Cowal images will start in Melbourne and will be visiting Sydney in early July, then Newcastle and beyond.

To find out more about Lake Cowal, and how you can support and build this campaign, make the links:
www.protestbarrick.net
www.savelakecowal.org
www.corpwatch.org
www.aguavalemasqueoro.org
www.peacebus.com

Flu or No Flu,
A Crisis that the State Benefits From

By Huevo Podrido

Over the past few weeks we have witnessed in the world press a constant stream of reports of a new crisis gripping the world and threatening life on a global scale: the swine flu. Reported to have originated in central Mexico, the "pandemic" flu has been spreading through Mexico, and throughout the world as result of travel. While this news seems drastic there are greater issues at play here. It's important to look at what is happening on the ground in Mexico as the state tries to "control" this risk, the response of governments globally, how responses are connected to capital and what it has meant for social movements in Mexico.

On the 29th April the World Health Organisation (WHO) announced an increase to their second highest alert phase, Phase 5, meaning "there is sustained human-to-human spread in at least two countries and that global outbreak of the disease is imminent... It also signals an increased effort to produce a vaccine." By this stage various figures were being reported in the newspapers globally, with numbers generally ranging from 150 to 160 dead in Mexico and 2400 reported cases. Predictions from one WHO official, Neil Ferguson, stated that "40 per cent of people in the UK could be infected within the next six months if the country was hit by a pandemic". Essentially, these reports were sensationalist and based upon little evidence. Of the 152 dead, only 8 had been confirmed dead from the swine flu, and the 2400 reports were of influenza in general on a national level within Mexico. The flu also needs to be placed in the context of general influenza which kills an estimated 500 000 globally every year.

Apart from media disinformation which has lead to a state of global panic, it's important to consider what the Mexican government of Felipe Calderón has implemented. Coming to power in 2006 through widely acknowledged electoral fraud, the government has been increasingly losing control politically, as social movements and popular opposition have been growing in power in contesting the government's legitimacy. Statements of the "inevitable spread" of the disease have created, quite deliberately, an atmosphere of fear, insecurity and panic. The swine flu emergency measures have "closed down" entire urban areas, and are widely perceived within the Mexican left as a pretext to curb mounting social dissent against one of the most corrupt administrations in Mexican history. Along

with increased military and police presence on the streets, new laws were passed allowing federal police to use surveillance of all telephone calls, mail, websites and email addresses, and access to personal information from private companies. Along with this, the May 1st Parade, which was directed against the Calderon government, was cancelled.

On a global level the threat of infection has been used as a way to divert attention away from the global economic crisis which is leading towards a drastic increase in poverty and unemployment; not to mention the war in the Middle East and the broader issue of US-NATO war crimes. The constant coverage in the media effectively draws attention from greater threats to capital, as we are meant to be paralysed by this apocalyptic threat. It is important however that this is contextualised within other recent events which have "threatened our lives" such as anthrax in 2004, whereby $40 million was spent in the US alone on developing vaccines against the threat.

It also needs to be considered who will benefit from the pandemic virus as it spreads. Similar to the anthrax scandal, pharmaceutical companies will be the principal beneficiaries in any vaccine created. The accessibility and cost of such a vaccine also raises important issues. This is especially important in relation to where the virus supposedly originated, in La Gloria, a small rural town in central Mexico.

Perhaps one of the more obvious effects that this "crisis" will have relates to the foreign policies between the US and Mexico. As it currently stands, the US/Mexico border is becoming increasingly militarised, as construction of the fence continues to prevent people crossing. The response from the Right in the US has been predicable consisting of the call to not allow anyone to cross the border from Mexico, and for greater policing of the border using military personnel. This has essentially played upon the notion of danger associated with the South, and the idea that to "contain" the Other is the necessary solution.
As reports continue to come in about the spread of the virus, (the first case in

Australia has just been reported as I write, referred to as a “weak” case whereby the person recovered from it and is now okay) there is a need to be critical of the sensationalist information that is being reported in the press and how such a “crisis” is being used by the state and for the benefit of pharmaceutical companies. As distrust and discontent for party politics rises in Mexico, the flu has allowed for the state to try to reclaim some sense of legitimacy. Exactly how long controls of urban areas by police will be allowed is perhaps another story as the distortion of information becomes increasingly evident.

Most importantly we need to place such a “crisis” in the context of other “crises” that have gripped the world in the previous years: terrorism, anthrax, bird flu. It’s important that we look critically at information and do not allow such crises to distract from more immediate struggle and organising against the state and capital. Information in the media about the devastating effects of the economic crisis upon workers, the war in Afghanistan and Palestine, climate change and the intervention in the NT are being side-tracked, yet there is crucial need for this resistance to continue; flu or no flu.

Alternative information sourced from:
(In Spanish) http://www.elpais.com/articulo/internacional/globalizacion/plagas/elpepiint/20090503elpepiint_10/Tes?print=1
http://www.rebelion.org/noticia.php?id=84570
http://www.jornada.unam.mx/2009/04/29/index.php?section=opinion&article=032o1pol
(In English) http://www.globalresearch.ca/index.php?context=va&aid=13433

CCA, Give Me Back My Soul

- Eastside Thunder

I have seen Hell and I have descended into its fiery depths and there I have seen the devil and witnessed some of his treachery.

I work at a call centre in Surry Hills. We sell raffle tickets for charity. To do this, thousands upon thousands of people across Australia are telephoned each day and asked to pledge. You sit in front of a computer screen with a headset on, while these thousands of people are automatically dialled on. When someone on the other end of the line picks up the phone, the connection is made and their details flash up on the screen for you to make a sale to. This method of fundraising is designed to gain the maximum possible pledge rate out of communities, with the least amount of expense.

Each salesperson is given a quota of how many sales they need to make per hour. If we don't make the quota we're sent home, and fired if it keeps happening. Through our minds and bodies each shift will ache the desire to make a sale, the need is overpowering.

And through Hell I walked hand in hand with the devil and his treachery became mine and after a time the burning, scalding flames of Hell became my own cravings for what I still understood as evil.

A salesperson when confronted by a pensioner who clearly cannot afford to spend her meagre allowance on even $15 worth of raffle tickets will still push further: 'We can do 20 entries for $50, 15 for 40 and we now have a special of 10 entries for $30'. We do have options for entries less than $30, but we are told only to mention them as a last resort.

If asked by a potential customer how much of their pledge actually goes to the charity, we are told to answer, 'All of it'. This is a lie. In fact, the call centre is paid $24 000 for each raffle we do, plus 3.8% of whatever we get in pledges, plus 90c for every telephone call we make, regardless of the outcome. Needless to say most of our money is made on the 90c per call, seeing as we do literally hundreds of thousands each day – about 100 million this year so far! If we break this down then only about half of the money people pledge goes to the charity – the rest goes to the corporate call centre, some going to our wages and most going to the directors and execs.

After about two weeks I was promoted to the corporate side of the company. I was now to take inbound calls, i.e. be the customer service for a company called Pixel Multimedia. Pixel Multimedia send out millions of scratch cards across Australia. Free scratch cards found in magazines or our mailboxes, promising cars, money, mobile phones, gaming consoles as prizes for a winning card. Every card, when scratched, is a winner. The card instructs you to send a txt message from your mobile phone with a code to claim the prize. At the bottom of the card is written in small print that when subscribed, you would be charged $10 for every

5 days you stayed subscribed to the service. No one wins shit, except hundreds of dollars added to their next phone bill. When they receive their next phone bill, they call their telephone company, which directs them to a telephone number connecting them to me.

A Hispanic sounding lady on a pension called me the other week demanding to know how I could live with myself, working for these people. These people that steal, she wanted to know honestly, how I could work for them? She'd been scammed out of about a hundred bucks. The rule is that I'm only allowed to give a refund if they ask specifically for one, in those words. All she asked for was for me to speak to her honestly, and this I could not do. Our calls are monitored by the supervisors, I couldn't say shit.

The further through Hell I ventured with the devil I learned that it was not his hand I was holding, nor by his side I was walking. On a leash he had me, his command enough for me to do his evil upon any other human.

There's another company we do customer service for at Contact Centres Australia. It's City of Sydney parking fines.

Yep, we do all the scams at CCA.

Reviews of stuff

Supporting Caste
Propagandhi
(album)

I reckon the best punk music - the songs and bands that really move me - are defined by a compelling sense of urgency and immediacy. And what makes punk important is that this feeling doesn't necessarily have to be created through outstandingly, technical musicianship. It can be in a basic driving beat, a simple melody that rises above a wall of noise, or a gravel-throated scream that demands an active response.

Propagandhi have always attained this sense of urgency, it's just that for a couple of albums now this is in part created by ridiculously skilled playing of their instruments. This doesn't overwhelm the politics of their lyrics but amplifies it, so that in Supporting Caste they have created a record that is unrelentingly intense whether what you're hearing is super-fast riffing or a whisper over a quietly strummed guitar. This isn't obvious punk music - there's a fracturing feeling to this album created with odd pauses, time changes, breakdowns, etc that reflect a growing and obvious despair in their lyrics about the possibility of revolutionary change occurring.

I know of no band that lyrically articulates radical politics as well as Propagandhi. However, i do situate this album within a particular trajectory that i feel they have moved along in their lyric writing - from revolutionary and inspiring on their first couple of albums, to more angry but still hopeful (Today's Empires, Tomorrow's Ashes), to angry but also fairly despairing (Potemkin City Limits), to now, where i think the balance has shifted towards an overall bleakness and despair.

The title track is evidence of this mood, a clever metaphor where the masses of history are equated to the supporting caste of a film, "ushered on and swiftly off this stage", they offer us "a piece of advice: if you're cast on thin ice, you may as well dance". Track 8, 'The Funeral Procession', has a similar feel, with the narrator "resigned to the truth that i will not live to see the dawn of a better day", but finishing with the line "you gotta keep on truckin' anyways". Yep, i told you there's a bleakness to this album and i'm not even going to quote from the final track, 'Last Will and Testament', that has a hauntingly, beautiful three-minute intro preceding a matching set of crushingly, sad lyrics.

The songs on this album with more specific themes

impress even more Propagandhi's lyric writing. 'Night Letters', which kicks-off the album is brutally heavy and is about someone obviously very close to bassist The Rod. It tells of the difficulties of an asylum seeker having escaped a war-torn home trying to make a life in a new country, while their loved ones have been left behind. That's a thing they do, telling the stories of others (real or created) with an empathy, solidarity even, that can't help but affect the listener.

'Potemkin City Limits' (probably meant to have been on the previous album), might be the best animal lib lyrics ever written, with a sound much like some of their earlier more catchy punk. It tells the story of Francis the pig, who escapes a piggery to live in freedom for 5 months. I didn't realise Francis was a pig for a while and that may be what makes it even more resonant (or maybe I'm just slow on the uptake), that Francis' life is described much like any human worker whose body is commodified into nothing more than a machine to produce surplus value.

I really could write a 5000 word essay about this album - I haven't even mentioned my favourite song 'Dear Coach's Corner' as Chris returns to his love of ice hockey, with a letter to a panel of a sports show asking how he should explain to his niece their constant conjoining of sport with patriotism and militarism. This album is everything I feel about revolutionary politics at the moment - yep, you really do have to "keep on truckin' anyways".

- SourDough

Notes on Prison, Justice and Climate

Jeff Luers & Lilia Letsch
(zine)

This zine emerges from the letter writing relationship that has developed between political prisoner Jeff "Free" Luers and Australian activist Lilia Letsch.

It contains a number of pieces with varying topics by each writer, all centred around the themes of the title. However, the topic of prison, and prison support stands out as the central motivator for the text, mainly because of the inspiring passion of Letsch for the practice of solidarity. Discussing her involvement in the forest campaigns of Tasmania she writes that 'solidarity was not something that we talked about, it was just assumed that we were all in it together'. This is a situation which is all too recognisable amongst activist groups where problems, such as incarceration or state repression, are dealt with only as they arise, without prior discussion or planning. Letsch continues, to say that 'when I thought about how I would deal with being locked up, I somewhat selfishly hoped that my comrades … would support me. Of course this meant that I had to give the same in return. Solidarity suddenly became the most important word that I knew.' This discussion of the active practice of Solidarity, undoubtedly one of the key values of any anarchist individual or collective, culminates with the inspiring thought that 'it is these interactions, the personal one-on-one connections we can develop with others that are the most powerful sites of radical change'.

And in the pieces by Free about his 9 years locked down, we are shown exactly why those relationships of solidarity and support are so important. Free is a confident writer, perhaps thanks to the amount of mail he receives and replies to! Reading about his life as a political prisoner was fascinating, as he describes his existence inside as 'a rare breed of prisoner, one convicted of crimes that were committed for selfless and altruistic reasons'. In fact Free's passing references to "prison politics" is the one aspect of the zine which I wish was expanded, as he only briefly discusses his development of relationships with prison gangs and how his ability to 'move within various factions proved extremely beneficial when it came to bringing them together in a common cause'. You sense that Free is a man with many stories to tell - perhaps some that aren't appropriate for the letters that pass through the hands of the prison authorities!

Other pieces in Notes… deal with climate and environment based issues, a theme which is familiar to and shared by both writers. Free discusses the worldwide rise of cancer as the result of industrial manufacturing procedures, and Letsch follows this nicely with a specific account of how the iconic Tasmanian Devil is threatened by a cancerous Facial Tumour Disease linked to the use of Polybrominated Biphenyl Ethers as a flame retardant in luxury lifestyle products. The zine is illustrated by Free's drawings, and the articles are complemented by poems written by Free and others. As a publication, the text is clearly laid out and easy to read. Come the publication of this review it should be available at your local Anarchist infoshop. It's well worth reading for anyone interested in developing an appreciation of solidarity and how it can be achieved in practice - and that should be all of us!

- M. Skelton

In this month's zine

* Damien Outlaw reports back from the annual convergence at Lake Cowal against Barrick Gold's destruction of Wiradjuri land.

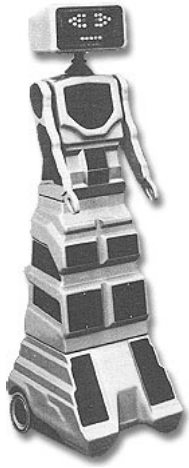
* Another Mayday passed and the good people from Melbourne Anarchist Communist Group have put out a statement about its ongoing significance in this time of economic crisis.

* The Swine Flu isn't just a virus. It's an excuse for state repression in Mexico. Huevo Podrido reports.

* Work at a call centre or make a pact with the devil... there's not much difference says Eastside Thunder.

* Sydney's first Anarchist Film Fest is coming up. Full program inside.

* More news, including Mayday actions around the world plus reviews.



events to go to:

Sydney

Jura Books
440 Paramatta Rd, Petersham
www.jura.org.au

May 28, 7.30pm
Come to our monthly acoustic night in the library, last Thursday of the month. Bring a piece of wood with strings, a tube with holes, your humble vocal chards or just your ears to listen. There'll be a headline performer, but aside from that, the night is open to whosoever turns up. If we get enough people then we may even spread downstairs for some spoken word, poetry or just another performance space. Food and refreshments are available, donations are appreciated to pay Jura's mortgage and other bills.

0410 758 461 / johnholik@riseup.net

Black Rose Anarchist Library
22 Enmore Rd, Newtown
www.blackrosebooks.org

June 21, 2pm
Open meeting about the future of Black Rose
Followed by a screening of *Dr Strangelove* at 6pm

Black & Re(a)d monthly reading group at Black Rose: see http://blackandread.wordpress.com for the next date & readings, or call into Black Rose.

Jura/Black Rose Anarchist Film Festival Queen's Birthday long weekend 5-8 June
See program inside!

Melbourne

May 25, 6pm
15 Minute of Fame by M. Skelton
Book launch
Melbourne City Library reading room
http://www.emergingwritersfestival.org.au/